

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Advisory Action mailed on June 16, 2003, and the references cited therewith. The Advisory Action was also discussed in a telephonic interview with the Examiner on June 20, 2003.

Claims 23, 28, 31, 34, 38, 42, and 45 are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 23-47 are now pending in this application.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 23-47 were rejected under 35 USC § 112. Applicant respectfully maintains the arguments presented in the Response mailed on May 20, 2003.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 23-47 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLaury in view Bynum et al, Yim, Sawamura, and Tedrow.

The rejection states that, “McLaury shows apparatus for regulating substrate bias.” McLaury appears to show a diode series 10. The reference also appears to show a diode load element 110. Embodiments of McLaury also appear to show a sense element as part of the integrated circuit. However, Applicant is unable to find at least one **bypass transistor** to at least one diode in a series of diodes for electrically bypassing at least one diode. In contrast, Applicant’s independent claims all include at least one bypass transistor to at least one diode in a series of diodes for electrically bypassing at least one diode.

The rejection states that, “Bynum et al shows the concept of controlling the bias applied to a substrate by shunting a diode in a line that applies a voltage to a substrate.” Bynum appear to show an integrated circuit designed to bias an epitaxial well. Embodiments of Bynum appear to include a single diode 42. Bynum also appears to show a transistor 28 coupled in parallel with the diode 42. However the gate of transistor 28 in Bynum appears coupled to a bias node. In operation, transistor 28 appears to be switched on or off in only a passive manner, depending on the presence of unwanted transient signals in the Bynum device. Transistor 28 of Bynum also appears to be switched off if the bias is switched off.

Applicant is unable to find at least one bypass transistor to at least one diode in a **series of diodes** for electrically bypassing at least one diode, wherein the at least one bypass transistor is adapted for **selective actuation by a user while setting a substrate voltage bias level**. In contrast, Applicant's independent claims all include at least one bypass transistor to at least one diode in the series of diodes for electrically bypassing at least one diode, wherein the at least one bypass transistor is adapted for selective actuation by a user while setting a substrate voltage bias level.

The rejection states that, "Yim et al shows that plural diodes may be used in a line to tailor the applied voltage." Yim appears to show a voltage drop stage 10 that includes a plurality of MOSFET's whose gates are connected with their drains. However, Yim does not show at least one **bypass transistor** to at least one diode in a series of diodes for electrically bypassing at least one diode. In contrast, Applicant's independent claims all include at least one bypass transistor to at least one diode in a series of diodes for electrically bypassing at least one diode.

Applicant respectfully submits that Sawamura and Tedrow do not cure the deficiencies of the references discussed above.

Because the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not show every element of Applicant's independent claims as amended, a 35 USC § 103(a) rejection is not supported by the references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to Applicant's independent claims 23, 28, 31, 34, 38, 42, and 45. Additionally, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to the remaining claims that depend therefrom as depending on allowable base claims.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6944 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.


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By his Representatives,

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Date 6/20/2003

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 20th day of June, 2003

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